

year tradition of delivering on the power of technology to improve the way we live. I would like to recognize that Motorola's essence as an American icon has been and continues to be to link people's dreams with technology's promise.

I congratulate Motorola on finding new ways to make things simpler, smarter, safer, synchronized and fun for people around the world. I recognize that Motorola continues to demonstrate technological leadership, the highest standards of corporate responsibility and respect for the individual, all while continuing to lead the nation and the world into our technological future. I congratulate Motorola, on the achievements of its employees, retirees, suppliers, and distributors worldwide as they commemorate and celebrate the company's 75th anniversary while the company looks to deliver an even greater impact in the 21st century as a leading force in American technology superiority.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I speak today to congratulate the 17 recipients of the Small Business Administration's Outstanding Women Entrepreneur Award.

These inventive and resourceful entrepreneurs are leaders in a national community of women's businesses, which continue to outpace all other companies in overall growth—in number of firms, employment and sales. Women-owned firms are constantly breaking down the barriers of our past and proving that the business world is no longer a boys-only club. As many in the small business community are aware, women-owned companies have become increasingly important to our Nation's jobs and economy. Today there are over 10.1 million women-owned firms, employing 18.2 million workers, and generating \$2.32 trillion in sales.

With assistance from the SBA, these 17 women honored during last week's Small Business Week have created businesses that serve as remarkable examples of successful entrepreneurship in a variety of industries.

Patricia Miller, Barbara Bradley Baekgaard, Rebecca Matthais, and Dr. Taryn Rose all started their own businesses in the fashion industry, relying on the SBA for loans and counseling. Patricia and Barbara created Vera Bradley Designs, a company that produces a popular line of luggage and handbags. Rebecca's company, Mothers Work, is now one of the leading providers of maternity clothes of women across the country. Taryn combined her medical knowledge as an orthopedic surgeon with her love of fashion to create a footwear company that is projecting to reach over \$20 million in sales this year.

The SBA has also helped several of these women break into male-dominated industries, like construction and defense. Donna Brinkmeyer-Asman of Clark Manufacturing, Lurita Doan of New Technology Management, and Carolyn Minerich of Carmin Industries have all created companies that have grown to include major defense-industry clients. Tina Cordova looked to the SBA's Small Business Development Center and SCORE programs to help her company, Qestion Construction, expand from 2 to 26 employees.

Kathryn Freeland, Marilyn Melkonian, Patty DeDominici, Nikki Olyai, Jeannette Lee White, and Julie Morgenstern all looked to the SBA to help them create their businesses. Now they are advising much larger businesses on potential employees, technology, and management issues.

These women and their employees are not only beneficiaries of their companies' successes. In addition to starting and growing successful businesses, these women have made significant contributions to their communities. Blue Crab Bay, started by award recipient Pamela Barefoot, creates specialty food items for seafood lovers and uses its profits to give back to the Chesapeake Bay community. The company has given back to its community through scholarships, charity events, and donations to groups like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

I would also like to recognize the accomplishments of awardees Heather Howitt, Judy George, and Maria Welch. Heather, along with cofounders Tedde McMillen, Carla Powell, and Lori Woolfrey, recognized a potential market for their traditional Chai drink, and now their company, Oregon Chai, sells its chai tea lattes at stores in all 50 States. Maria's company, Respira Medical, is a leading respiratory and durable home medical care equipment distributor in Maryland. Judy's Domain home furnishings company was recently featured on the popular television makeover program "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

I commend these 17 women for their creativity in business, their leadership for women entrepreneurs, and their generous contributions to their local communities. As the number of women business owners continues to grow—currently the number of women-owned businesses is growing at double the rate of all U.S. firms—we must do everything we can to ensure that these businesses have every opportunity to flourish. To that end, we are working to pass the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003, legislation that will protect the extremely effective and well-established Women's Business Center network. With this bill we will also reestablish the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise to give women in business a greater voice in Federal policymaking. The 2003 SBA reauthorization legislation also closes the loopholes in Federal procurement

practice that have allowed agencies to bundle contracts and limit Federal contracting opportunities for small and women-owned businesses. In addition, this bill will strengthen all of the SBA's access to capital, entrepreneurial development, and contracting programs, including those that helped bring success to the 17 recipients of the Outstanding Women Entrepreneur Award.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me and Senator SNOWE in recognizing the important contribution these women, and other women in business across America, make to our Nation's economy by passing the SBA Reauthorization Act of 2003 and fully funding the SBA's programs.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2658) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 111. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 233. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

S. 278. An act to make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1113. An act to authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1209. An act to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1409. An act to provide for a Federal land exchange for the environmental, educational, and cultural benefit of the American public and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2059. An act to designate Fort Bayard Historic District in the State of New Mexico as a National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2533. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10701 Abercorn Street in Savannah, Georgia, as the "J.C. Lewis, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 2826. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1000 Avenida Sanchez Osorio in Carolina, Puerto Rico, as the "Roberto Clemente Walker Post Office Building".

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following